

## REACTION TO THE FRENCH COLONIZATION OF INDO-CHINA

a loser by it. If it no longer suffers persecution and has become a great temporal power, the Mission has lost influence—though now without bitterness—to the administration which has absorbed all but its spiritual functions. Its converts and missionaries have not increased, and many of its compatriots openly flout its ideals. From without it is threatened by Communism and Caodaism, and from within by nationalist insubordination. Stalemated in every direction the Mission's eye has been forced to turn inward, to care for its own, and to attempt the conversion of primitive tribes. The native reaction to the Mission has been very realistic. Around the small nucleus of sincere conversions there has been a cloud of converts through self-interest. With the decline of Mission power and the opening of new and more profitable fields the Annamites have turned away from the Mission, and put pressure to bear on the more powerful administration to win certain concrete aims in this world. It is even doubtful whether the Mission influence is responsible for the one constructive indigenous religious movement among the Annamites—Caodaism.

## NATIVE NATIONALISM

Although the most far-reaching transformation of native life has resulted from the involuntary absorption of Western ideas, French action in the three fields of politics, education, and Missions was consciously directed towards modifying native life. Annamite nationalism may trace its roots to the Chinese-dominated past, but even after independence was achieved, regionalism and communal loyalties atrophied its development. Prolonged contact was needed with the nationalistic West

to quicken it to life. Though France naturally never wanted an indigen-  
ous nationalist movement to destroy her colonial sovereignty, French  
institutions are so impregnated with the ideals of 1789 that they un-  
consciously fostered in the Indo-Chinese the principles of political  
liberty.

In 1862 the French Admiral at Saigon received the following procla-  
mation :

All the inhabitants of Gocong (Cochin-China) make this  
declaration; in  
losing the government of our sovereign, we are as desolate  
as children who  
have lost father and mother. Your country belongs to the  
Western seas: ours  
to the Eastern. As the horse differs from the buffalo, so do  
we differ from  
you in language, writing, and customs. Gratitude attaches  
us to our emperor: